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The City of New York.

All hall to the new New York which comes into being to-day!

There now arises here a city which takes Its place at once as the second of the great capitals of the world. Long before the lives of many of those who read these lines are spent it will be the foremost capital of the world in population, in wealth, and in commercial and financial power.

Nor can we doubt that here is to be developed a city which will surpass in grandeur any which has yet been builded

All hail to the imperial city!

Within the year that begins this morning we shall learn, through the elections for the House of Representatives, how the American people regard the present Administration; whether Hawaii is to become a part of the national territory; and whether the Cuban revolutionists are to remain unrecognized and unassisted by our Government. The coming twelvementh will throw light, also, upon the destiny of China, and upon the question whether the European Powers, instead of maintaining the concerted action which in Europe they have pursued lately, shall, by reason of conflicting interests in the Middle Kingdom, be arrayed against one another. In other parts of the world, moreover, and especially in Austro-Hungary, in Spain and in Africa, the New Year seems likely to evolve events of unusual interest and moment.

In the United States we need not expect to witness any monetary legislation, for there is believed to be a small majority for free silver in the Senate, whereas those who believe in meeting our national obligations in gold dominate the House of Representatives. Neither is any material change in our customs daties to be looked for. Should the tariff, even when supplemented with the public income obtained from other modes of indirect taxation, fail to answer the national needs, the fault must be placed where it belongs. on the vast and steadily increasing burden imposed upon us by our pension system. There are signs that the people are awakening all over the country to the absurdity and iniquity of pension laws that are sweeping us to deficits and bankruptcy; laws which force us to pay on account of a war ended thirty-two years ago a sum which will presently amount to \$150,000,-000 annually, a sum far larger than Germany expends upon the strongest standing army upon the globe. No country relying upon indirect taxation could long support such a strain. Either it must be relaxed or else we shall be reduced to a choice between two odious alternatives: We must live by loans from hand to mouth, and thus impair our national credit, or resort to direct taxation on a large and objectionable scale. If, on the other hand, the pension list were cut down to reasonable proportions, there is no doubt that even the existing revenues outgo. To bring about such a state of things, it is only necessary to convince the people that the pension laws, as now framed and administered, constitute an insurmountable obstruction to the nation's solvency and prosperity.

With regard to the composition of the next House of Representatives, there are, no doubt, already premonitions of the political oscillation which is wont to mark the middle year of a Presidential term. The pendulum swung backward last November in New York, Kentucky and elsewhere, It was otherwise, however, in Ohio, and even Maryland stood firm in the Republican column. Should the Dingley bill not disappoint the yet unshaken hopes of its framer, and should we witness a continuance of the prosperity evinced by the rise in the price of wheat and by the renewed activity of factories, the Republicans may reasonably count upon retaining control of the House of Representatives, although they must expect a lessened mafority. An efficient safeguard against reaction would be a foreign policy adjusted not to the timidity and selfishness of college professors and stock gamblers, but to the patriotic traditions and deep controlling sympathies of the masses of the community.

With regard to Hawaii and to Cuba the current of popular feeling is unmistakable and irresistible. If there has been any doubt anywhere concerning the importance of Hawaii as a protective outpost of California, Oregon and Washington, it must be dispelled by the seeming intention of European powers to partition the coast of China and to compete for the control of the Pacific. That the Cuban revolutionists, who decline to be deluded with a sham proposal of autonomy, deserve at least to be recognized as belligerents, and that our Government should exhibit, what it has not yet exhibited, complete neutrality between them and the Spaniards, has become so patent to American citizens that, if their votes could be polled on the subject, not more than the fraction of one per cent, would be recorded in the negative, So far as the domestic interests of the

United Kingdom are concerned, these seem certain to remain in the charge of a Unionist Government not only during the twelvemonth now opened, but for at least four years to come. The majority in the House of Commons, with which Lord SALISBURY returned to power in 1895, is the largest ever seen in England since the first reformed Parliament met in 1833. It seems to be, also, compact and practically homogeneous, the entrance of the Duke of DEVONSHIRE and of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN into the Cabinet having checked the diverging tenden of the Conservatives and Dissident Liberals. It is true that Lord LONDONDERRY and a knot of men representing the older Toryism have denounced Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S measures to insure workingmen against casualties in certain trades, which measures, nevertheless, have

tion, which would like to enlist the Unionist party against the principles of free trade and the gold standard. But, when the test came not long ago, Lord LONDONDERRY proved powerless in the House of Lords against Lord Salisbury and the Duke of Devonshire, and the failure of the Wolcott Commission showed that, not even in India, had the bimetallists any strength. That Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, in his zeal for Imperialism, might be personally willing to make a slight departure from Free Trade principles is evident from his colloquy with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, wherein he said that England might impose a small duty on food products from foreign countries, thus giving colonial commodities a preference, provided the colonies, in return, would admit British products duty free. As it happened, Sir WILFRID declined the offer, but, even had he accepted it, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN could not have made it good, for the British workingman will never submit to an increase in the price of bread for the sake of conciliating the colonies. As for the British Liberals, they are still

at sea for want of a leader and a pro-

gramme. Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT, although, by far, their most skilful Parliamentary debater, is heartily supported by only a fraction of the party, and Lord Ross. BERY has even a smaller following. Mr. Asquith is not yet ripe for the leadership, and Mr. JOHN MORLEY seems to have lost ground decidedly since the shelving of Home Rule, in which he was a sincere believer. The mantle cast off by Mr. GLAD-STONE has been, in a word, assumed by no one. The only man in the House of Commons who might, conceivably, lead the Liberals to victory in 1901 is Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, but he, unluckily for them, is on the other side. By entering the Unionist Cabinet, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN not only deprived the Liberals of the man best qualified to succeed Mr. GLADSTONE as a political strategist, but he also took with him some of the most tempting planks in the Liberal platform: the Accident Insurance bill, for instance, which he has already passed, and the old age pension scheme, which he will presently bring forward. As for the local option project, it powerfully helped to bring the Liberals to grief in 1895, and yet they do not dare to renounce it, because it is Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT'S hobby. There has been an attempt to make a popular cry of the " One Man, One Vote" proposal, but the Unionists have met it with clamor for "One Vote, One Weight," pointing out that some of the Irish electoral districts are so small that a vote in them counts for many times more than does a vote in the large English constituencies. Altogether, the Liberals are in a bad way so far as Great Britain is concerned, and they have not mended matters by repelling their anti-Parnellite coadjutors, through their refusal to permit Home Rule to figure any longer as the chief plank in the Liberal platform. That step, which was lately taken by the caucus of the British Liberal Association, has caused Mr. JOHN DILLON to repudiate in a speech at Dublin any further alliance with the British Liberals. This new attitude of the Anti-Parnellites, who have been hitherto reproached with a lack of independence, should smooth the way to reunion with the followers of Mr. JOHN E. REDMOND. Were such a reunion once effected between the two main factions of the Nationalist party, Mr. T. HEALY and his friends would also be obliged to acquiesce in it, or they would quickly lose all popular support in Ireland. The Liberals, therefore, by turning the cold shoulder to Home Rule, in the hope of gaining votes in | tics. The changes recently made in the England, have really removed an obstacle to the ultimate success of the movement, for once more 86 votes in the House of Commons is certain, soon or late, to hold again the balance of power. Meanwhile, the agitation for a readjustment of the fiscal relations of Great Britain and Ireland is likely to rewould show a considerable surplus over cur at no distant date, although it has lution on the part of the Socialists, seen adroitly postnoned by the device of requiring a new investigation of the subwere represented, yet by a nearly unanimous majority it reported that, under the existing fiscal regime Ireland is contribut ing to the Imperial Exchequer very much least, not a few Irish Unionists on the Na-

tionalist side. remark that Lord Salisbury's refusal to countenance the uprising of the Cretan Christians against Turkish oppression and his indifference to the invasion of Thessalv by an overwhelming Ottoman force would doubtless have cost him the Premiership. but for the overwhelming Unionist majority in the House of Commons. Events in the far East will soon disclose how much solid basis there was for the alleged necessity to maintain inviolate the concert of the Powers, a concert which thus far has resulted in leaving the Armenian massacres unpunished, in blocking the efforts of the Cretans for genuine autonomy, and in stifling the hopes of Greece, Meanwhile, England, while professing devotion to the European concert, has held herself aloof from the Triple Alliance on the one hand, and the Dual Alliance on the other, though it is under stood that Lord Salisbury adheres to the informal agreement, said to have been made by him some time ago, which binds the Brit ish Government to protect the Italian seacoast, should it be assailed by a French fleet. It looks as if Great Britain must eventually join one or the other of the great Continental combinations, for the dream of counterbalancing them with a consolidated British Empire has been by this time dis pelled. Instead of the illusions cherished by English imperialists and the fine profes sions made by colonial Premiers on the occasion of the Queen's jubilee, the discouraging facts have been disclosed that the Parliament of the Cape Colony has made no effort to raise the money needed for the promised warship, and that the Parliament of Victoria has no more intention of ceasing to tax imports from Great Britain than has the Parliament of Canada.

In France the Ministry, headed by M. MELINE, has lasted longer than was expected, partly because the Premier himself is a high protectionist, willing to place heavy duties on the importation even of food products, and, therefore, acceptable no less to agricultural than to manufacturing interests, and partly because M. HANO-TAUX, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, is known to be, in the most emphatic sense of the phrase, persona grata to the Czar. So long as the desire of regaining Alsace-Lorraine, and the unacknowledged, but everbeen embodied in law; and it is true, also, present, dread of further dismemberment

French heart, a Ministry which commands the confidence of the Court of St. Petersburg has many chances of stability, and no Ministry which Russia treats with coldness can count upon a long tenure of power. Not even the discovery, indeed, that the Czar has no intention of entering upon an offensive war for the purpose o assisting France to get back her lost provinces would justify Frenchmen in renouncing an alliance which effectually shields them against a second German invasion. It now looks as if all that France during the coming year, can gain from her understanding with the Czar is a free hand as against England in West and Central Africa, and the assurance that her interests in the far East will be cared for. The approach of the Paris Exposition of 1900, at which French manufacturers believe they can demonstrate the superiority of their wares, and from which the Paris tradesmen and the owners or lessees of real estate hope to reap a great deal of money, will also have a tranquillizing effect upon French politics. The French Socialists and Red Republicans, who, for the moment, act together in the Chamber of Deputies, are, while still strong in the manufacturing centres, less hopeful of speedy triumph in the country at large than they were when M. Bourgeois was in office. They have been discouraged by the popular acquiescence in the Senate's practi cal assertion of a right to turn out Ministry by a vote of want of confi dence. It was, in truth, a far-reaching change in the current view of the French Constitution, which was effected when M. Bourgeois felt constrained to resign in deference to the Senate's opposi tion. Up to that event it was taken for granted that, in France, the Ministry was responsible only to the popular branch of the national legislature, as is the case in the United Kingdom and in Italy. Times have changed since the avowed purpose of a strong party in the Chamber of Deputies was such a revision of the Constitution of 1875 as should eliminate the Senate. Or the other hand, it cannot be said that the opposite political movement, which aims to assimilate the Presidency of the French republic to the American model, is likely to make any progress in the twelvementh now begun. In a country like the United States where power is split up by the Federal system, where the authority in the hands of the national Executive is comparatively small, and, above all, where the belief in popular government, the attachment to individual liberty, and the principles of the English common law are ingrained in the race, there is no danger in intrusting the Administration to a President who is inde pendent of the legislature. To do this in France would not be safe, because, owing to the centralization of the Government and the immense power vested in the Executive, such a President would be almost a dictator, even during his lega term of office; and the temptation to pro long his authority beyond its legal term, from public no less than from selfish mo tives, would be tremendous. Nor in view of the tendency of the mercantile classes, and even of the peasants, to crave a strong ruler, would it be difficult for him to do so as Louis Napoleon proved long ago. The French President should not, therefore, be made independent, and the only feasible alternative is to surround him, as he is now surrounded, with Ministers who are respon sible to Parliament. In Germany, the new year seems likely to witness events of unusual importance in

subordinates attached to the Imperial a consolidated Nationalist party casting | Chancellor-it will be remembered that the Chancellor has no colleagues but only subordinates-bear witness to a complete reaction on the part of Kaiser WILLIAM II. from the tendencies to State socialism. which marked the beginning of his reign. His present attitude has led to a resowhich will have a sensible effect at th next general election for the Reichstag ject by a second Royal Commission. In the Hitherto, the Socialists have refused, for former Commission all political parties the most part, to coalesce with any other political party in any electoral district. and have put forward nominees of their own both for the Reichstag and for the Prus sian Chamber of Deputies. Now they have more than her due proportion. This is a | decided that, in every constituency, where question which, when it comes to the front, they have no hope of gaining a victory for will, not improbably, array, temporarily at | themselves, they will support the candidate of the party which they consider least objectionable. This decision must sen-As regards England's foreign policy, that sibly increase the number of Richterists part of it which relates to Africa and the in the next Reichstag, as well as in far East may be considered more conven- the popular branch of the Prussian lently in another place. Here, we need only | legislature. It remains to be seen whether the present Reichstag will make the increased appropriation for the navy which the Emperor desires, and also how it will deal with the bill fixing the size of the standing army, which will be introduced this year. It will be recalled that the Constitution of the German Empire provides that, although the budget must be annually voted by the Reichstag, the principal revenue laws are permanent, and cannot be changed without the consent of the Bundesrath, while the most important of all appropriations, that for the army, is virtually determined by the law prescribing the number of the troops, and this has been hitherto voted for a number of years at a time. Thus, in 1871, it was voted for three years; in 1874, 1880, and 1887, for seven ears, and hence called a septennate; and in 1893, for five years. It will, therefore have to be voted this year, and the ability of the Imperial Government to obtain the number of troops deemed needful, and for the term of years desired, will depend upon its success in securing the cooperation of the Catholic or Centre party, without whose aid it will be impossible to overcome the resistance of the Richterists and Socialists to the present huge military establishment. That the Reichstag, which has not forgotten the maritime glory of the Hauceatic League, will, eventually, vote the appropriation requested for a large increase in the German Navy seems probable, in view of the approval with which the German people have witnessed the occupation of Kiao Chou Bay, and the determination of the Government to promote, by a naval demonstration, the expansion of the national trade with China. Deferring, for a moment, the consideration of the German Kaiser's policy in the far East, we ought to note that both he and his ally, the Hapsburg sovereign, are vying with each other in attempts to reknit their former cordial

the field of both foreign and internal poli-

Prussian Ministry, and also in the corps of

relations with the Czar. For the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH the new year is fraught with no promise of tranquillity, and, recalling the part played by Nicholas L in the events of 1849, he may well covet the good will of NICHOLAS II. in the dark hour that seems impending over the Cis-Leithan kingdom. There was from the outset no hope that the new Prime Minister of the Austrian half of the dual monarchy would be more successful that the country which produced Convi-

that there is an agrarian and bimetallic fac- at the hands of Germany, dominate the than was Count Baneni in reconciling the | Bus, Caror, and Americo Vestucci should Czech and German factions in the Reichsrath, and thus securing a renewal of the decennial fiscal and commercial treaties with Hungary. Those treaties expired on Dec. 31, 1897, and the Diet at Budapest, although earnestly requested by the Hungarian Prime Minister to wait four months for the conclusion of the new treaty, has not yet agreed to do so. Even the Prime Minister's request was coupled with a distinct intimation on his part that if, at the end of the term named, the required steps had not been taken by the Reichsrath, the Magyars would proceed to act independently, and would hence forth recognize no bond of union with the Cis-Leithan kingdom, except the tie of common allegiance to the House of HAPS-BURG. That, of course, was the programme with which Kossuru began, and, to avert a recurrence to it, it has for some time been deemed by no means impossible that FRANCIS JOSEPH, instead of merely dissolving the Reichsrath and ordering new general election, which would be useless in the inflamed state of the public mind, may abrogate the existing Constitution of the Cis-Leithan kingdom, and proceed, by virtue of his sovereign powers, to negotiate the needful fiscal and commercial treaties with his Hungarian subjects. Even as we write, we learn that an imperial decree has authorized the Cis-Leithan Ministry, during the prorogation of Parliament, to levy taxes and provide for the State expenditures from Jan. 1 to June 30 next. Already, then, the Cis-Leithan Constitution has been suspended. The suspension, however, or even the abolition of the Cis-Leithan Constitution, still leaves the Hapsburg Emperor confronted with the fundamental question: Shall Bohemia, with its historical adjuncts, Moravia, and Austrian Silesia, become an autonomous kingdom, and shall FRANCIS JOSEPH fulfil his promise to be crowned at Prague! No doubt he would gladly reply In the affirmative if he were assured that the process of disintegration would stop there, but what was given to the Czechs could not well be denied to those Southern Slavs who are included in the Cis-Leithan State, or to the Poles, who form a compact mass in Galicia, or to the Italians, who are congregated in the southern part of the Tyrol and in the seaports along the Adriatic. The problem might be solved by an extensive application of the federal principle but for the fact that the example would be viewed with dread and hostility by the Magyars, who in their own kingdom of Hungary firmly dominate other nationalities. What hitherto has aggravated the difficulty of finding a solution is the fact that Russian agents have fanned the aspirations of the Czechs for practical independence, and that the Czechs, being themselves of Slavonic origin, would prefer subjection to the Czar to association with either Germans or Magyars. For that reason it might be possible for NICHOLAS II. to mitigate the feverish state of popular feeling in Bohemia, and this is but one of several benefits which the House of HAPS-BURG may derive from a revival of the friendship which once linked it to the ROMANOFFS. Far-reaching, indeed, are the possible consequences of the Czech agitation for autonomy, which is but one of many indications that all the subjects of FRANCIS JOSEPH, except the Germans, who number about eight and a half millions, are opposed to the alliance by which the dual monarchy is connected with the German Empire. If the inhabitants of the Hapsburg dominions could be polled on the question of that alliance, two-thirds of the votes in the Cis-Leithan kingdom would be cast against it, while in Hungary there would be an almost unanimous declaration to the same effect. On the whole, considering the trouble that the Czechs have given him, and are likely to give him hereafter, FRANCIS JOSEPH must

> Insist upon acquiring Bohemia after the battle of Sadowa, in which event the lastnamed country would by this time have German The recent reconstruction of the Italian Cabinet has no particular significance, and certainly will not involve any drastic change in the nation's foreign policy. It simply means that a stable Cabinet cannot be constructed out of the innumerable groups into which the Italian Chamber of Deputies is divided, and that there needs must be at short intervals a fresh distribution of the spoils. From Cayour's death in June, 1861, to June, 1896, there were no fewer than thirty-one different Cabinets, whose average duration was but about thirteen months and a half. This state of things would come to an end if Catholic electors were permitted by the Pope to vote, for then all the adherents of King HUMBERT would have to cooperate in self-defence. As it is, there are certain questions which, in the course of the coming year, may tend to consolidate the existing groups into two great parties. We refer to the expediency of adhering to the coalition with Germany and Austria, and to that of acquiring transmarine possessions. There is no doubt that the Triple Alliance is unpopular in the peninsular kingdom. It leaves ungratified the yearning for Italian unity, which never can be fulfilled so long as the Italian-speaking section of the Tyrol, and Trieste, with other Adriatic scaports, remain in Austrian hands. It compels the Italian Government to maintain a much larger military establishment, and also a larger navy, than it would otherwise re onire. Worst of all, it shuts out Italian growers of wines and oil from their best customer, France, which has, not unnaturally, refused to enter into a commercial treaty with the ally of her German enemy. These things might be borne, grievous as they are, if, in the Triple Alliance, Italy possessed a guarantee of abso lute security for her seacoast in time of war. This is far from being the case. The French fleet that can be despatched at any hour from Toulon is far stronger than any naval armament which the Triple Alliance could place in the Mediterranean; and, accordingly, Italy has been forced to go outside of her allies for a protector, and to sue to England for an informal promise that a British fleet shall defend the coasts of the peninsula from devastation at the hands of the French. Were Italy, on the other hand, leagued with France, she would have nothing to fear in the Mediterranean. As for conquests beyond the sea. it is true that the disastrous outcome of the attempts to dominate Abyssinia did check for a time any movements in that direction, but Italy cannot for get that Genoa once had fortresses and commercial establishments on the Bosporus, on the shores of the Black Sea, in the Levant, and even on the Euphrates, while Venice was formerly mistress of the

Morea, of Candia and Cyprus, and of most

of the islands of the Archipelago. It

seems, in truth, like the irony of history

sometimes regret that Prussia did not

not possess a foot of land in the New World. That the craving for transmarine dominion is not yet extinct in Italy may be inferred from the despatch of an Italian squadron to Chinese waters, although it is not easy to foresee with which of the great maritime powers ahe is likely to cooperate. For the moment the interests of England and Germany in the far East are conflicting, and they will remain so unless a partition of the Chinese seacoast can be arranged. Under these circum stances, the Italian Government may find itself in an awkward predicament. Its warships cannot assist the English, for that would place it in hostility to the Triple Alliance, Should they, on the other hand, support the Germans, Italy will forfeit the protection of England, upon which she has been counting in the event of a war with France. On the whole, it is clear that King HUMBERT's Government

will have its share of anxiety in 1898. With regard to Russia's European policy, it need only be said that there is at present no prospect of any material reform in her internal administration. Still far distant seems the promulgation of that Constitution which was signed by ALEXANDER IL on the eve of his assassination. Neither is there any indication of an early move toward Constantinople or toward the absorption of Turkish Armenia. By using the so-called concert of the powers to shield the Sultan from the penalties of misrule, the statesmen of St. Petersburg expected to convert him into a vassal of the Czar. The ease, however, with which the Turkish Army crushed the Greeks, has rehabilitated ABDUL HAMID in his own esteem and in that of his Ottoman subjects, with the result that the Sultan's acceptance of the Czar's suzerainty is further off to-day than It seemed sixty years ago, when the treaty of Unkiar Skelessi was concluded. During 1898 Russia's eyes will be turned eastward to the acquisition of an ice-free port on the Pacific and of practical ascendancy to the north of the Great Wall.

To Spain and to the Alphonsine dynasty

the new year offers but a cheerless prospect.

It is true that the rebellion in the Philip pine Islands seems to have been suppressed but the rejustatement of Spanish authority in Cuba is further off than it was a year ago. The important victory lately gained over Gen. PANDO by Gen. CALIXTO GARCIA and the capture by the latter of Victoria de las Tunas, Guisa, and other interior towns have completed the dislodgment of the Spaniards from the whole of the province of Santiago with the exception of the seaports, and the evidence attainable appears to show that the Cuban civil authorities are discharging in that province all the regular functions of a government. In the provinces of Puerto Principe and Santa Clara also, the revolutionists are preponderant, though they have not yet organized there a system of civil administration. Even in the other provinces, those, namely, of Matanzas, Havana, and Pinardel Rio, the Spanish troops, when moving, or when stationed in the smaller towns, are exposed to incessant attack at the bands of the patriot forces, who have repeatedly penetrated into the suburbs of the capital. The attempt of Governor-General BLANCO to protect the sugar planters has failed, and by his appeal to our Government for eleemosynary aid he has confessed his inability to feed the non-combatants who have con gregated in the towns. Meanwhile, the Constitution for Cuba, which has been proclaimed by a royal decree, has been rejected by the revolutionists in the field. and it is by this time recognized, alike at Havana and Madrid, that Spain can recover the Island only by force of arms. As a matter of fact, however, the home Government has already sent to Cuba all the soldiers that it could spare, and it has nearly reached the limit of its financial resources. The problem, therefore, confronting Gen. BLANCO is how to accomplish, with far fewer men and much less money, what Gen. WEYLER mely, th of the rebels. At the same time, the Alphonsine Dynasty is in a precarious condi tion. There are signs of commotion among the Carlists, who are strong in the Basque Provinces, in Navarre, in Aragon, and in Catalonia; the Republicans and Socialists are becoming restless; the Liberals are only held together by the influence of SAGASTA, who is far advanced in years; and the Conservatives, who, under Canovas, were the mainstay of the monarchy, are now rent asunder. ROBLEDO, the head of one faction of the Conservatives, has publicly signified a willingness to combine with Carlists and Republicans for the purpose of renewing in Cuba the feroclous methods of warfare practiced by WEYLER while SILVELA, the chief of the other fac tion, has not hesitated to avow that Snain's recovery of the island is impossible. The fear of disturbances in the Peninsula will, of

troops now stationed in Cuba would have to be recalled. On the African Continent there seems n likelihood of another collision between British subjects and the Transvaal Repub lie during the year now begun. It is rathe on the Niger and the Nile that attention will be concentrated. Although a treaty between France and England, concluded some years ago, defined their respective spheres of influence in the Niger basin, a French officer has disregarded not only the terms of that compact, but also British agreements with native chiefs. and has occupied points within the territory recognized as pertaining to Great Britain. This was the encroach ment referred to by Lord Salisbury in his speech at the Mansion House dinner, when he said that there was a limit to the con cessions which England would make to France. Still more serious friction is threatened on the headwaters of the Nile, if it be true that the French expedition, about which various rumors have reached us during the last year, has occupied Fashoda in the so-called Equatorial Prov ince, which used to be the most southerly adjunct of the Egyptian Soudan. The ap pearance of the French in this quarter is the more ominous because of the alleged intention of Abyssinia, instigated by a Russian emissary, to take possession of an adjoining district on the east, to which the Negus has a traditional claim. Let the English, however, once conquer the Khalifa ABDULLAHI and occupy Omdurman, and they will have no difficulty in expelling the French from Fashods, for the Nile is navigable by gunboats all the year round from Berber to Gondokoro, within 10° of the equator. The southward advance of the reorganized Anglo-Egyptian army, under Sir HERBERT KITCHENER, will undoubt-

edly take pface this year. The railway has

been completed to Abu Hamed; communi-

Itself, suffice to prevent the despatch of any

considerable reinforcements to the Carib

bean, even if the Treasury should be able t

support the additional expenditure, and

should a Carlist uprising occur, some of the

cations have been opened between Berber and Suakim; and the whole stretch of the Nile between Berber and Omdur man has been cleared of the Mahdists by an uprising of the river tribes, who, since the fall of Khartoum, have been fearfully oppressed. On the whole, there is good reason to believe that within the twelvemonth that begins to-day the destruction of the Anglo-Egyptian army under Hicks Pasha, and the death of Gordon, will be thoroughly avenged. It is equally certain that, after their experience of the dreadful rule of the Khalifa, the natives of the Eastern Soudan, of Kordofan and of Darfour will welcome the restoration of the Khedive's authority. It is, however, eastern Asia upon which

the eyes of Europe and America are likely

to be most intently fixed during the

twelvemonth which has now opened. What

we are now beholding on the coast of China might have been predicted when three European powers, Russia, France, and Germany, interposed between China and Japan and dictated a revision of the treaty of Shimonoseki. It was certain that the Middle Kingdom would have to pay for the interposition, and the only point left doubtful was the date of the de mand for payment. No doubt Russia would have preferred to wait for the completion of the Siberian Railway before disclosing the breadth of her designs, but her hand was forced when Germany seized Kiao Chou Bay, and this, accordingly, was followed by the despatch of Russian warships to Port Arthur, a move which seems to have been concerted with France, for it has been said that the island of Hai-Nan was taken possession of by the French on the same day, Hai-Nan, with the western section of the province of Kwang-Tung, which, also, France will undoubtedly demand, will give that power absolute control of the Gulf of Topquin and place the province of Kwan-Se within her sphere of influence. With regard to Yun-Nan, and Sze-Chuen which lies directly to the north of it, there is a treaty between France and England whereby they agree to share the commercial and railway privileges that may be granted in those prov inces. It should not be impracticable, how ever, to adjust the respective claims of these two powers. The chief difficulty attending any general scheme of partition will arise when the share assignable to Japan is discussed. The Mikado mus needs be consulted, for his fleet, next to the English, is the strongest in the Pacific, and he alone is able to place quickly a large army on Chinese soil. What he wants, of course, is the very territory of which he was deprived by the revision of the Shimonoseki Treaty, to wit, Corea, the Liau-Tung Peninsula and the intervening strip of Manchuria, Corea, especially, he desires because it is the part of the Asiatic main and nearest to his island empire, and because he has historical claims to it. Russia on the other hand, is determined to have an ice-free seaport at all hazards, and she does not want the Japanese as neighbors on the Asiatic mainland; so that, ill-prepared for the moment as she is, she will probably fight sooner than permit the reassertion of the Shimonoseki Treaty in its original form. A war, however, can be averted in one way, namely, by such a partition of the seacoast of the Middle Kingdom as shall satisfy all the maritime powers concerned, including, of course, Japan. That is why 1898 seems likely to bring with it an event so momentous and so memorable as the dissolution of an empire, which had been long civilized and prosperous, when RAMESES II. was ruling over Egypt; and which had existed for some twenty centuries when the founder of Rome was born.

One Cause for Thankfulness.

The rule of Tammany Hall begins in New York to-day, to the unbounded pleasure of the victors, to the bitter indignation of the Republican party, stabbed by pretended friends whose connection with it had given them irresistible power for betrayal, and hands are clasped and their faces sug to the mortification and alarm of thousands of others who a year before supported the Republicans as a requirement of honesty and patriotism, and who are still constrained by the revolutionized Democracy to look to Republicanism as the nation's salvation.

One look back, though, will convince any impartial reasoner that the success of VAN WYCK is less harmful than would have been the success of Low, a type of reformer differing in many respects from Mayor STRONG, but none the less a sure source of blight to any party in whose name he might hold office. If Mr. SETH Low, owing no allegiance to party, despotic, uncertain, and self-seeking, had become Mayor of New York through Republican help the Republican organization of the Empire State would have faced the Congress elections of the year beginning to-day and the Presidential election of 1900 more rent by faction, and more difficult of commendation to the public, than was the Republican party of New York city after the Hon, WILLIAM L. STRONG'S three eccentric and gouty years in the City Hall.

All stalwart supporters of the St. Louis platform, in the Empire State and elsewhere, see some cause for thankfulness in the New York election of 1897.

Mr. ALEXANDER E. ORR, the President of the Rapid Transit Commission, is represented by the Herald as saying that the commision intends to apply to the Supreme Court for a change in the conditions of the \$15,000,000 bond required by the court, "so that the bond shall be construed to apply only to the period of construction and not to the time of operation, which ranges from thirty-five to fifty years." If Mr. ORR has said anything of the kind he s not fit for the place he occupies. The Rapid Transit act forbids the change he is credited with seeking, and the court cannot make it. The bond, according to section 34 of the act. must cover the operation of the road and the payment of the rental for it, during the entire period of the contract for building and operating it, and no division of it is permissible.

The fraudulent raising of the checks of the American Estates Association by the association's bookkeeper, after they were signed by its officers, brings into notice again the defec-tive state of our New York law on the subject. According to the decision of our Court of Appeals in the Bedell forgery cases, the bank paying the raised checks will have to bear the loss resulting from them, but, according to the decision of the British House of Lords in the celebrated Vagliano case, the loss would fall on the employers of the forger. The reason assigned for the Vagliano decision was that the forger being employed by the makers of the fraudulent paper, they gave him the credit necessary to the success of the fraud, and, therefore, the loss should he borne by them. Possibly, the facts in the Estates Association case differ enough from those of the Bedell cases to enable the question to be again carried to the Court of Appeals, and with a different result.

Benewing His Youth at 80 From the Daily Kennebes Journal. man in Razorville is celebrating his eightleth istimas week by having the mumps.

THE SUN AND THE TRIBUNE. tome Observations by an Unprejudiced Ob-

From the Vermont Watchman and State Journal of Montpeller.

When the national canvass of 1896 was practically opened by the d claration of principles at Chicago THE NEW YORK SUN, true to its eathmate of the dominating issue of the canvass and having the courage of its convictions respecting that issue, took up the cause of sound money and the national honor by espousing the candidacy of William McKinley promptness, vigor, and decision that are the characteristics of undoubted sincerity and true patriotism. Throughout the campaign THE SUN struck sturdy blows, delivered straight from the shoulder, at Bryanism in whatever specious guise it appeared.

The paper was a powerful factor, if not, indeed, the most controlling single influence in the East, but more especially in the city and State of New York, in producing the magnificent majorities at the November election.

THE SUN found in the Republican platform the only hope of society in this nation, and the truest exposition of real Jeffersonian principles. And yet, in accepting the Republican platform, THE SUN was consistently maintaining its fealty to the policies and principles, in respect of national affairs, which had found conspicuous supporters in Samuel J. Tilden and Samuel J. Randall, in whom it had been an earnest believer. THE SUN has stout y maintained its ante-election stand, and in the recent municipal canvass in New York city, among the newspapers, was almost the sole defender of the local Republican organization against the assaults of its enemier

and the treachery of its friends. Republican papers which have become some what effete, or rickety in their ideas, or which may be moved by a spirit of jealousy, may sneer at THE SUN now because it is supporting Republican policies and denouncing party treachery with characteristic vigor and directness; but Republicans every where were very joyous when that journal put its stalwart shoulder to the wheel in the perilous crisis of 1896.

Foremost among the Republican journals that were faithless found in a great emergency was the New York Tribune, which seems to have presumed upon its ancient standing as a Republican newspaper to betray its party with impunity whenever personal pique or disappointment should arouse its resentment. Passing by the fact—which history has regarded with venial leniency-that the founder of the Tribune became in 1872 the Presidential candidate of the Democratic party, which for a lifetime he had flercely denounced as the embodiment of every species of moral and political wickedness, his successor has once and again allied himself with the enemies of the Republican party and conspired to accomplish its efeat.

In 1882 the Tribune joined hands with the Democrats and Mugwumps of that time to deeat Judge Folger, the Republican candidate for Governor of New York, and to elect Grover Cleveland by a majority of some 200,000 votes. In respect of ability, experience, and character. Folger compared with Cleveland as Hyperion to Satyr. The Tribune was thus instrumental in starting Mr. Cleveland on the high road to the Presidency of the nation, and its treachery to its party at that time largely contributed to the lisasters that befell this country under the Cleveland Administration. Again, in the recent municipal election in the Greater New York, the Tribune consorted with the direct ene-mies of the Republican party to defeat its candidate for Mayor and his associate officials, although the candidates were, in every respect, the most eminent among their fellow citizens in their fitness for the offices to which they had been nominated. Its recent apostacy and its continued efforts to break up or disorganize its party in the city and State of New York have carned for it the fatal caressing and adulation of the Mugwump and Democratio press, the inveterate and malignant fees of the party and its principles, in all parts of the country.

THE SUN is, preëminently, the great national paper, standing up vigorously for American interests, at all times and the world over, befriending and champloning the cause of every people contending for their rights and their liberties against their oppressors. Republicans as a party, and Americans as a people, have in The Sun, among the newspapers of the country. their ablest and most conspicuous advocate.

Using a Child's Prayer to Advertise Soap.

To the Euron of The Sun-Sir: Can nothing be done to restrain the soap makers who have plastered many blank walls in this city with posters of a description most shocking to every one who loves children and believes in the belty? These posters represent two little children kneeling in prayer. Their of all true prayer-thankfulness, trust and love. With that thought in mind the beholder turns to the lett. ing and finds "Give us this day our daily-scap."

A more striking revelation of the degradation which comes from greed was never seen in public. Will not THE SUN, that drove the disgusting pictures of cigarette makers from the streets, and that recently denounced the use of the American flag for the adver-tisement of beer, also make it unprofitable to use the prayer of a little child for advertising purposes?

ONE WHO IS NOT A CHURCHMAN

No Use for Booth-Tucker.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I read THE SUR daily. I couldn't do without it. Sometimes its ideas do not coincide with mine. Then I " roast" (mentally) the editor. But I keep on reading The Sux.

Now permit a plain workingman to testify his appreciation of the editorial in this morning's Sux regarding that cockney hypocrite, Booth-Tucker. He is of no use to New Yorkers. He and his class should be shipped back where they came from, or be condemmed to do hard manual labor, and give some value for money received. Hammer 'em, Mr. Editor, and even if I do sometimes find fault with THE SUR, I'll keep on reading it. NEW YORK, Dec. 51.

The Tuxedo Coat.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUS-Sir: I was glad to see your remarks with regard to the "Tuxedo" coat in your reply to a recent correspondent.

Of all the garments were by men, the most un-

seemly and the most incongruous is that Tuxedo coat. Really it is a garment suitable for no occasion in town or country which requires any formality in dress. It is adapted to the case of a man's own room, when he is under no social restraint, or to the reading room, his business office, perhaps, but never befits an occasion where anything like careful dress is appropriate. A woman might as well appear at a shappropriate. A woman might as well appear at a dinner in the loose sacque she throws over lar shoulders in making her tallet as a man to come wearing a luxest coat.

I do not rare what authority there may be for justing or such a lounging earment on an occasion of evening extension; the custom is had in itself and incapable of any justification.

The Tax-do coat opinit not to be tolerated by ladter, and even among men it offends good their.

New Your, Dec. 31.

Ventuation on the Bridge Cars.

TO THE RIGTOR OF THE SUN-Sign Appropriating the good offices of The Sex in all matters apportuning to the public's weifare and that of its pations, 1 and 19 call your attention to the poor or rather had of ventilation in the bridge cars. Now that the stoves are in the cars, it matters not whather the day be are in the cars, it matters not whether the day low
warm or cold, all doors are stud up, and generally all
ventilators, too, so that by the end of the learner
one who has the hardlined to stund it emerges as
from a bothouse in the hald it of summer.
At this moment, having just returned from a trip
to Birosklyn on car sh at 4120 this afternoon, and on
asking the guard if the ventilators could not be
opened, I received no answer other than a surje
look.

William D. N. Phinag.

Growth of the South to Wealth.

From the Nashville Banner. The value of the assessed property in the South today is just double what it was before the war, when the negroes were included as property.

Taking the South as a whole, the increase has been greater where industries have been diversified and intensified. Mississippl is joined to berold idel, King Cotton-hence that State which, comparatively, was one of the wealth! at before the war, is now one of the poorest-at least one of the least progressive as far as material progress goes. North Carolina, one of the poorest, or rather one of the slowest in antebellum days, is now become one of the wealthiest. Within a few years the old North State has built 180 cotton factories and 240 to useo factories. Her old, worm-out sedge fields, with will per cent. of silicious matter, produce the fine yellow leaf tobacco in abundance. The building of rationals has been one of the most important factors in this unexampled dovelopment of wealth.